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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the 185th anniversary of the usurpation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom, marked on 3 January (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 46, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Martinic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

Question of the Malvinas Islands: Argentina reaffirms its legitimate rights of sovereignty

On 3 January 1833, the Malvinas Islands, which are an integral part of the Argentine national territory, were illegally occupied by military forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Argentine Republic, as the legitimate heir to the archipelagos and maritime areas of the South Atlantic which had belonged to Spain, expressed, through government acts, its firm desire to recover its effective sovereignty over them.

The permanent and unrenounceable objective of recovering the full exercise of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with the principles of international law, while respecting the way of life of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands, is enshrined in the first transitional provision of the national Constitution. This objective is a State policy and reflects the collective desire of the entire Argentine people.

The United Nations recognizes the colonial situation of the Malvinas Islands (see General Assembly resolution 2065(XX) of 1965), as well as the existence of a dispute concerning sovereignty that must be resolved through bilateral negotiations between the two States involved, taking into account the interests of the inhabitants of the islands.

The Argentine Republic continues to receive support for its rights from the States parties and associated States of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Other multilateral and regional forums, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Group of 77 and China, the South American and Arab Countries Summit, the Africa-South America Summit and the Ibero-American Summit, are also calling for a resumption of negotiations.

On this day, the Argentine people and Government reaffirm once again the imprescriptible and inalienable sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2018